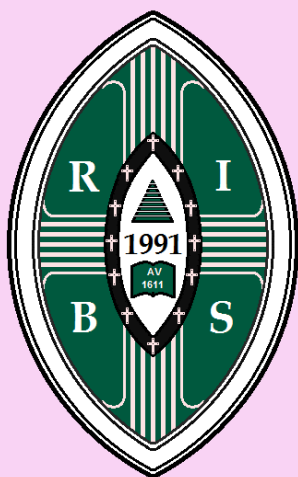


BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL

School of the Scriptures

Curricula of Teaching Offered by
Rhode Island Baptist Seminary



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Historic Baptist Church
Wickford, Rhode Island 02852
www.HistoricBaptist.org

Class Number

521 - 534

Class Title

MASTER OF DIVINITY LEVEL
CURRICULUM

Prepared by

N. Sebastian Desent, Ph.D.

Date

November 13, 2020

Units

38

Level

Master Level

This Syllabus is Approved for
Baptist International School of the Scriptures

N. S. Desent, Ph.D., Th.D., D.D.

CLASS 521 – 534 MASTER OF DIVINITY LEVEL CURRICULUM

This Syllabus shows the Master of Divinity Level curriculum. It provides the objectives and require the student to do the work in a self-directed manner.

This Syllabus should be used in conjunction with other Class Syllabi, which have other detailed Teaching.

NOT FOR SALE

All Materials Offered by *Baptist International* are Free of Charge.

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A Syllabus Approved for Baptist International School of the Scriptures – 38 Units.

N. Sebastian Desent, Ph.D., Th.D., D.D.; Pastor, Historic Baptist Church

November 13, 2019

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Scripture References

Matthew 28

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Luke 1

1 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;

3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,

4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things,

wherein thou hast been instructed.

Philippians 4

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

2 Timothy 2:2

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

1 Timothy 1

4 Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.

5 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

Acts 1

1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

Isaiah 28

9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

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Introduction

Baptist International School of the Scriptures offers Associate through Doctorate curricula for men desiring to be better ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Associate Level curriculum contains 29 classes with practicum. The Graduate level has 9 classes, a review of the *201 Orientation*, and 1 paper with practicum. In the levels following (Bachelor, Masters, and Doctorate) the work is all self-directed objective-based work with accomplishments, including writing requirements and practicum. The classes should be taught in the order given. At the two lower levels the students should complete each class before starting the following class. At the higher levels, the student can work multiple objectives concurrently. Additionally, as a student works each level, he will find he is also accomplishing objectives required at the higher levels.

There are 66 classes/objectives in the core Associates through Doctorate curricula. With the addition of the M. Div. program, the number increases to 80 classes/objectives.

Below is an overall view of the classes and their related information:

BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL S. O. S. CLASS TOTALS			
LEVEL	CLASS NUMBERS	NUMBER OF CLASSES / OBJECTIVES	CREDITS / UNITS
BI MANUAL	000	0	0*
NEW BELIEVER'S GUIDE	101	1	0*
SOS COMPENDIUM	200	1	0*
ASSOCIATE LEVEL	201-229	29	64
GRADUATE LEVEL	201, 301-310	11	96
BACHELOR LEVEL	201, 401-409	10	124
MASTERS LEVEL	201, 501-505	6	36
MASTER OF DIVINITY **	521 - 534	14	38
DOCTORATE LEVEL	601-608	8	60
POST-DOCTORATE WORK	N/A	OBJECTIVE IS TO LEAD IN LOVE	N/A
TOTALS		80	418
NOTE: * THE FIRST THREE ITEMS ARE NON-CREDITED BUT USEFUL TO UNDERSTAND THE PROGRAM			
NOTE: ** THE MASTER OF DIVINITY LEVEL IS OPTIONAL AND NOT PART OF THE CORE S. O. S. CURRICULA			

To accomplish 1 credit hour, the student must assimilate a minimum of 18 hours of teaching or study material (which we call *Lessons*). So, a class worth 1 credit has a minimum of 18 lessons, and each lesson contains approximately one hour of teaching material.

As an estimate, if a student applies 6 hours of class a week, he finishes a class in approximately 3 weeks. Keep in mind the 18 hours applies to the quantity of teaching material, not actual time in class. Students who have quick understanding or have previous knowledge can assimilate the teaching in a shorter time. Some students may need more time, depending on their experience and capacity to learn. Teachers with ministerial experience can assimilate the material in a few hours. Regardless of the time involved, we expect each student to assimilate the class material.

We expect teachers of the doctrine to have the word of God in their hearts. They should be able to teach the classes simply by the giving of a subject or topic. Because some classes are not easily understood as to what should be taught by simply reading the title, this syllabus lists the topics to cover in each class.

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The Wisdom of the Levels

In the Class 201 *Orientation* is the explanation of the teaching pyramid and detailed explanations of the levels. There is wisdom in the levels that one can understand if he considers the following:

The first level is an Associate program, which teaches a man how to be a good *co-worker* and *helper* to others. He is an associate, and one must first follow before he can lead (Matthew 4:19).

The Bachelor program teaches a man how to be a *leader* and fulfill the requirements of the ministry on his own as a sent man. He does not have to rely on another (save God) to do the work of the Lord. He is a “*bachelor*” in the sense that he is single in his abilities and training. This man now concentrates on building *experience* on his knowledge.

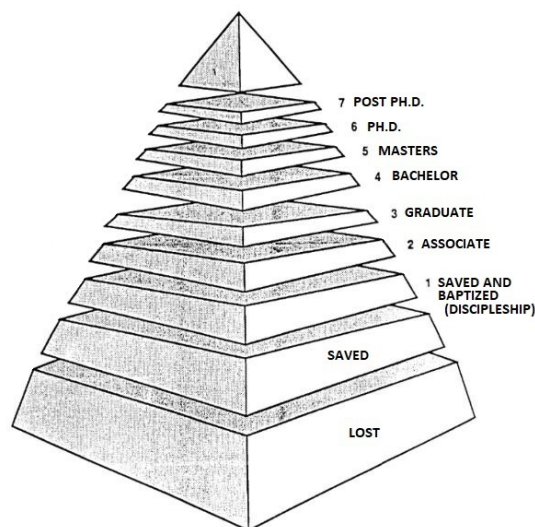
Between these two levels we have the Graduate program. This level is the transition from a helper to a leader, from a novice to an elder, from an apprentice to a journeyman.

In each level the teaching is designed to bring the man to leadership level. Every class has some overlap and prepares the student for the next class. As a man continues in the program, he will accomplish more and more of the higher-level requirements.

At the Master level the man has shown to have mastered the subjects of the course. He can teach all things in the program and has proved himself accordingly. He has thoroughly understood and practiced the teachings of Christ. He is experienced and able to help men at all lower levels. He is a pattern to follow.

The Doctorate level means the man has excelled to the point of being able to take the teaching of the B. I. curricula anywhere and he has a vision that few have. He has a high vision, a long vision, and a world vision. He can contribute to the program in many ways.

The B. I. Pyramid has been used for over forty years to illustrate the levels:



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Alignment of the School's Teaching

Baptist International is under the authority of Historic Baptist Church in Wickford, Rhode Island. The seminary there – *Rhode Island Baptist Seminary* – had used the *B. I.* curricula for nearly 30 years. The President of the school has been responsible for keeping and teaching the *B. I.* curricula since 1989 when he received it personally from Don M. Fraser and Pastor J. G. Tharpe.

Our school is freely offered to all churches (and all can benefit from it), but it can only be taught rightly by Bible-believing *Baptists*. Accordingly, because of the variety of different beliefs among Baptists, we require that the teaching be aligned with true Bible doctrine, which is openly declared by the school's publications.

Some of the more obvious positions the school stands for are these:

1. The infallibility of the scriptures. The King James Version (A. V. 1611) being the inspired and infallible word in the English language (2 Timothy 3:16).
2. The high regard of reliable foreign translations based on the Hebrew Masoretic Text and the Greek Textus Receptus. These are the translations we recommend for study, teaching, and preaching.
3. The scriptural teaching that *whosoever* can be saved (John 3:16).
4. That salvation is by grace through faith, not of works (Ephesians 2:8-10).
5. That salvation is secure once obtained (once saved, always saved – John 10:28).
6. That the church has been given the Great Commission to evangelize the world (Matthew 28:18-20).
7. That we accomplish world evangelism through the means of missions and the printed scriptures (Romans 16:26; Acts 1:8).
8. That the church is a local body of baptized believers who have covenanted themselves to carry out the commandments of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 5:23).
9. That the New Testament church, specifically a scriptural *Baptist* church, has the sole authority to teach and preach the word of God (Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Timothy 3:15).
10. That God is no respecter of man, and neither are we (Romans 2:11; James 2:9).
11. That performance comes before recognition (2 Corinthians 5:10; Mark 10:40).
12. That God's people are to buy the truth and sell it not (Proverbs 23:23).

Although we allow liberty as to how the subjects and the content of the New Testament are taught, we require that false teaching be eliminated completely. We reject wholeheartedly the false doctrines of Calvinism, modernism, and ecumenicism.

We understand there will be slight differences of opinion and teaching on certain applications, and we allow for the liberty of a teacher or pastor to lead his flock, but we reject major doctrinal false teaching that does not support the following:

- The Deity of Christ
- The True Gospel
- Salvation by Grace through Faith, not of works
- The Security of Salvation – once saved always saved

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- Whosoever can be saved – there is no predestined select group chosen to be saved
- The Bible is infallible (faithful translations from the TR and MT)
- The physical Second Coming of Christ is future (not allegorical or fulfilled already)

This requirement leads us to the next thought:

Churches and Seminaries

In respect to churches that desire to start the program, we have a few recommendations and policies. We respect the independence of each church, but we also must answer to God.

1. We encourage churches to start the program as soon as feasible. Even if a church does not have men who are called to the ministry, by offering the classes a church will attract the type of men who are interested and who can benefit from the curricula.

The work is similar to the supporting of missions – a church should not wait to start the work. Historic Baptist Church started Rhode Island Baptist Seminary shortly after organizing (within weeks) in 1991, just as we started supporting missions. God sees the effort and he now has a place to send men. God blesses the work as we step out in faith.

2. We recommend each church start their own seminary under the authority of their church. We suggest using the name of the place and the name Baptist. For example, *Rhode Island Baptist Seminary*.
3. We encourage the pastor to teach the program and that he first read and be familiar with the classes before he teaches them.
4. We will confer diplomas from R. I. B. S. upon students who accomplish the levels. From that point on, those men can issue diplomas to their own students as they fulfill the levels. The requirement is that a man can issue a degree equal to and below what he has earned in that same discipline. We confer degrees upon men in each church who *blazed the trail* for that church, and from then on, they lead.
5. We will not confer degrees on men of churches who are not aligned with the major doctrines aligned with the school. These major doctrines are listed above.

The reason for this is that we cannot allow men with erroneous doctrine to be purveyors of our curricula. We first keep it pure. Quality is required over quantity. If our school has free-will Baptists or Calvinistic churches in the mix, it will soon pollute the teaching and our good name.

Therefore, any church not aligned with the fundamental doctrines should seek their teaching program elsewhere. We cannot bid them God speed.

Credit Hour Integrity

For every class credit hour earned, we expect at least 18 hours of overall class instruction. Some students can assimilate the material more quickly than can others, so this requirement does not mean a student has

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to be in class for the 18 hours. But he must be taught the minimum 18 hours of material. Many students already have a good understanding of the New Testament, so the teaching will progress faster for these students.

What is required is that the lessons amount to a minimum of 18 class hours of normal teaching per class credit. Most classes are worth 1 credit hour. Some are worth 2 or 3 credits each, which means there should be 36 or 54 hours of teaching material, respectively.

We have listed more topics than are needed if each topic were an hour lesson. However, some lessons can be shorter than an hour and taught in combination with other lessons. That is to say, depending on the teacher and the students, a teacher may be able to teach 5 or 6 lessons at one sitting. Therefore, it is profitable when developing the lessons to create as many as possible, even if they may take less than an hour to teach. They can always be combined with others. A good variety of long and short lessons is acceptable and helps to break up the monotony. Since we can only estimate the time to teach a lesson, it is better to have too many than to have too few.

In respect to *Practicum* credit, the work done in the ministry will vary in value. The teacher can determine the value of the work depending on the student. Because every man has different strengths and weaknesses, the teacher should use wisdom in assigning practical work for credit that will train the man rightly. If the teacher assigns credit to work already done, he can determine the worth afterwards. We expect many students will already be active in the ministry, and that practical work can be counted for credit.

We accept the teachers' estimations based on a system of honesty and integrity. If we are informed by the teacher that a student has done the necessary work or class time, we accept it.

The Connection to Love Commandment Doctrine Required

Because all that we teach is based on the commandment of love – “If you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15), every class should show its connection to Love Commandment Doctrine. This requirement will help the teacher to stay focused and calibrated in his study and teaching. Credit will also be given at Class 405 *Associate Level Curriculum Survey*.

Love Commandment Doctrine – which is the precept upon which all New Testament doctrine hangs – is not only commanded by Christ, but it is exemplified in his passion. All levels, classes, lessons, teaching, and practicum should be connected to this precept or they have no value (1 Corinthians 1:1-3).

Avoiding Hypocrisy is Required

Since *Christ's Doctrine* requires the principle of *Do and Teach*, we expect all teachers and students to avoid hypocrisy. If a man is not yet doing what Christ commanded, he should be transparent and honest enough to show the correct doctrine – because it is needed – and with the teaching explain how he is still working on this part of the doctrine himself. We understand no man is perfect and we all are learning. But a man should *do* before he *teaches*, so that he speaks with authority having experience, and so that he can be a pattern to follow. In some cases, the man will need to adjust in order to follow the doctrine he is to teach.

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He should do both – adjust while he teaches. He should learn to do *before* he teaches. He is obliged to teach what he has learned and done, especially as to how he has grown.

The progression below has been used many times to show the path of the just:

- Look
- Listen
- Learn
- Live
- Love
- Labor
- Lead
- Leave

A man must learn Christ's doctrine, live what he learns, and love what he lives before he labors and leads others. As he gets closer to his end, he should set people and things in order before he leaves this earth.

Think of our Savior, how that before he left this earth, he prepared all things for us to continue his work: the *Comforter*, his *Commandments*, his *Charge*, his *Church*, his *Leaders* (apostles), his *Vision*, his *Ensample*, and the *Promise* of his return.

Class 201 *Orientation* Required

Originally called SP-108, the *Orientation* syllabus is developed and intended to be taught as written. This class should not be modified or rewritten, and it should be translated accurately when needed. The teacher and student should be very familiar with its contents as they are necessary to know the details in respect to the curricula. Furthermore, we require the *Orientation* to be reviewed at the start of the first four levels, so the information is thoroughly assimilated.

All Teachers are Writers

To say, "All teachers are writers" is not an understatement. If a man is not writing, he may have nothing worth writing about. But when God shows a man something, he should document what God has showed him – at least for his own use in the future. It is also possible that the work will be used to help others.

As a practice, we encourage men to write in a notebook good and worthy thoughts as they come to mind. If he fails to do so, they will for sure be forgotten. There is a window of time when God reveals something to a man, and when this happens the understanding, the thoughts, the study, the words, and the wisdom flow easily, gracefully, and with God's speed. This is the time to write. If a man delays writing, he will have to put forth much more effort to complete the task, as he tries to remember (if he can) – and the end result will likely not be as inspired as if it were written promptly.

Even when a teacher uses the written syllabi, there are still many requirements in the curricula for writing. The teacher may want to teach something special to the class, supplying it in written form. The students who are writing their notes from the classes will likely have thoughts worth developing in writing. Both

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the teacher and the student will have opportunities to write. A teacher may prefer to use his own studies and outlines to teach part of the required classes and lessons. Since the teacher is not limited to the topics in each class, he can teach as the Lord leads. We have provided *thought joggers* to aid in the generation of personal study. These are listed in the ***Helps*** section below.

Scripture References Required

It is necessary that every class have the related scripture references written out. A student should read the scriptures before starting the class. By reading the passages he will program and calibrate his mind, so it is ready for the teaching. Not only is this an excellent discipline to develop, but it has many practical uses. Especially when understanding or developing the lesson plan, the topically related scriptures will basically define the lessons.

Introductions Required

Every class lesson plan should have a thorough *Introduction* to the class wherein the author takes the time to write in paragraph form the purpose and scope of the class, along with his introductory remarks as to the importance, application, background, etc., of his study.

Introductions should be carefully read by every student. Much of the detailed information in the lesson plan will be discussed generally in the *Introduction*. A student will get a good understanding of where the class is going and what is the importance of the class. The student will get a *bird's eye* view of the class.

In many cases, the time taken to read the *Introduction* to the class will pay off as it makes teaching the lesson plans logical and easy to follow.

Helps

When developing the minimum 18 lessons per class credit for a particular class (which we call *the Lesson Plan*), the teacher/student should work out first the lesson titles and arrange them in logical order. Once he has the lessons chosen, he can then work to build teaching outlines for each class. Identifying applicable scriptures first will guide in the selection of the lesson titles and in the development of the details.

As a general practice, we list minimum 18 lesson titles per class and then arrange them logically. We do not stop at 18 lessons. We try to list as many necessary lessons as appropriate for the class to make the study as complete and thorough as possible. Even if some classes are short, the teacher can combine two or three to fill the class time.

When writing out the lesson topics, the teacher should ask these questions (those that apply):

- What is the doctrine?
- What are the direct New Testament commandments in respect to this doctrine?
- Who supplied the doctrine and what evidence is found that they obeyed the doctrine?
- What does the New Testament teach on this subject (be exhaustive as possible)?
- What Old Testament references support the New Testament doctrine that would help in understanding the New Testament doctrine?

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- How did Jesus exemplify this doctrine?
- How did the apostles exemplify the doctrine?
- What are examples in the Bible that show this doctrine (good or bad)?
- Who should obey the doctrine?
- Who should teach the doctrine?
- How does the New Testament say we are to obey the doctrine?
- To what extent is the doctrine applied and obeyed?
- What are the benefits of obeying the doctrine?
- What modern-day applications can be made?
- When and where is the doctrine illustrated in the Bible?
- What do we learn from these passages?
- How can we exemplify the doctrine?
- Why did Jesus Christ teach this doctrine?
- What is the difference between an *example* (the application of the teaching) and an *ensample* (being a pattern to follow) of this doctrine?
- What are the first and last mentions of this doctrine in the Bible?
- Is there a progression shown in the Bible that shows how this doctrine comes about or how it develops?
- What is the origin of this doctrine (in cases of man-made examples)?
- What is the end of this doctrine?
- What Bible types do we have for this doctrine?
- What illustrations do we have for this doctrine?
- How can this doctrine be broken down in a logical manner?

Depending on the class, the writer may find more topics than the above that should be included. With prayer, study, and the help of the Holy Ghost; the teacher should be able to teach as required.

Writing Requirements and Standards

The B. I. curricula contain various writing assignments. The writing requirements increase as the student progresses. *Teachers should be writers and reproducers write.* B. I.'s curricula reproduce reproducers and teach men to be teachers.

B. I.'s writing assignments are Bible-based and are studies or syllabi that will be used in future B. I. lessons. They must be biblically accurate, teach truth from the word of God, and be written according to the following requirements:

1. No papers are to be copyrighted, and they will be offered without charge. B. I. or any other church or school must have liberty to use and reproduce the material. Furthermore, all scriptures quoted in English must be from the King James Version, which can be used without permission. Works in other languages should use non-copyrighted versions of the Bible, and those based on the Masoretic Text (MT) and the Textus Receptus (TR). In Spanish, writers should use the *BPS New Testament* and the *Antigua Version* for the Old Testament.
2. Papers should be submitted in digital format, preferably in formats of Microsoft® Word® or PDF. Format of the pages should be printable on 8.5" X 11" size in portrait orientation, with normal margins.

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3. All papers should have a *Title Page* showing author, address, date, title, and class designation for submission. Papers should also include *Table of Contents*, *Scripture References*, and *Introduction*. All pages should be numbered.
4. Either double-spaced or single-spaced sheets are allowed, but the format should be easily readable and easy to teach from. We have in this Class 200 *S. O. S. Compendium* shown the preferred style.
5. All papers should be prepared per the standard writing manual:

A Manual for Writers by Kate L. Turabian
The University of Chicago Press, Chicago IL 60637

6. All papers should be prepared and submitted with the understanding that they may be used as a teaching tool. They should be outlined logically, using scripture references wherever possible.
7. The curricula will define what the subject of the paper is and what are the minimum number of pages. Subjects for the Master's Thesis and the Ph.D. Dissertation should be approved by B. I. the Master's Thesis should be 80 pages minimum and the Ph.D. Dissertation should be 160 pages minimum, unless otherwise necessary and approved.
8. Papers are likely to be continually revised, updated, and expanded over time. This is good and acceptable. Revisions should be tracked by date and revision number for best document control.
9. In the lesson summaries that follow, descriptions of the individual writing requirements are given under the class number.

Example of a Lesson Plan

For the teacher's reference, we have supplied an example of a short lesson that would take approximately an hour to teach. For 1 credit hour class, the teacher would develop minimum 18 lessons in his lesson plan to fulfill the credit requirement. The teacher should also refer to the many already-developed lesson plans available for the various classes. This is *Lesson 2* from Class 215 *Principles of Christian Liberty*:

Lesson 2: N. T. Law – Life and Grace – Jesus sets at liberty (Luke 4:18)

I. Jesus Makes Us Free from Sin

- A. John 8:34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.
35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.
36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.
- B. Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

II. Jesus Makes Us Free from Sin through the Truth

- A. John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

III. The Truth Sanctifies from Sin

- A. John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

IV. Jesus is the Truth

- A. John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

V. The word of God is Truth

- A. John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.
- B. Jesus is the Word – John 1:1

VI. Jesus brought Grace and Truth – the Grace of God

- A. John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
- B. Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:
- C. Romans 5:13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.
20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:
- D. Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.
15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.
- E. Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.
3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:
4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

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VII. The Grace of Jesus Christ Makes Us Free from the Law

- A. Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.
- B. Romans 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.
10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.
- C. Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.
- D. Romans 13:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.
- E. Galatians 2:21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

For a pattern of formatting the class outlines and lesson plans, the teacher should refer to the classes already developed.

Practicum

Practicum ensures the students are *doing* as well as learning, and also *learning by doing*. Students who are already ministers of the gospel and who are in full-time service will accomplish the requirements automatically as they faithfully fulfill their calling. Students training for the ministry are likely to fulfill the practicum requirements as they do the things required by their church. In reality, all teachers should be learning, and all students should teach.

Each level of the *School of the Scriptures* requires practicum. The upper levels are all practicum. A description of the practicum is supplied below.

Work Journals

Because all church or ministry-related work has value and should be counted toward credit, each student should keep a work journal recording his work in the ministry.

Teachers should make sure each student is keeping record of their ministry-related work. Furthermore, teachers should conduct regular reviews with each student to determine in what areas they need to gain experience and help them to serve and grow by assigning work opportunities.

Class 211 *Preparation and Application for Service* lists over 60 areas of ministry in which students and teachers should have experience. The list is not exhaustive and should be added to as the time, place, and need require. Here is the list from Class 211 for reference:

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- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Bible Study | 31. Leading Missions Conferences |
| 2. Leading Bible Studies | 32. Mission Trips |
| 3. Message Preparation | 33. Tent Meetings |
| 4. Prayer | 34. Children's Programs or VBS |
| 5. Leading Prayer Meetings | 35. Teen and Elderly Programs |
| 6. Evangelism – preaching the gospel | 36. Evangelistic Campaigns |
| 7. Door-to-door Visitation | 37. Church Finances |
| 8. Soul-winning | 38. Church Planting and Organization |
| 9. Visiting the Sick | 39. Missionary Work |
| 10. Jail Ministry | 40. Mission Trips |
| 11. Hospital Visitation | 41. Mission Surveys |
| 12. Nursing Home Ministry | 42. Street Preaching |
| 13. Children's Ministry | 43. Ordinations |
| 14. Nursery Administration | 44. Operating one's own Business |
| 15. Building Maintenance and Cleaning | 45. Working a Secular Job |
| 16. Building Construction or Repair | 46. Christian Counseling |
| 17. Sunday School Administration and Teaching | 47. Children's Homes and Orphanages |
| 18. Christian School Administration | 48. Children's Church |
| 19. University Level Teaching | 49. Bus Ministry |
| 20. Preaching | 50. Field Trips |
| 21. Teaching | 51. Widows' Administration and Visitation |
| 22. Baptism | 52. Sound Systems or other A/V Set-up |
| 23. Lord's Supper Administration | 53. Online or other Public Broadcasting |
| 24. Marriage and Weddings | 54. Music Ministry |
| 25. Funerals and Memorials | 55. Song-leading |
| 26. Scripture Research | 56. Promotional Fund-raising |
| 27. Scripture Publishing | 57. Home-schooling |
| 28. Scripture Distribution | 58. Government Interaction |
| 29. Inter-church Service | 59. Scripture Publishing – print shop |
| 30. Leading Revival Meetings | 60. Tract Writing |
| | 61. Digital or Other Presentations |

Teaching Practicum Required

All levels require practical work to earn credit. At the three lower levels, the practicum is shown as separate entries. For the higher levels, the practical work is included in the objectives, which is self-directed work. The teacher and student should review together how the practicum is broken down.

The Associate level has 32 credit hours of practicum. The Graduate level and Bachelor level each have 12 credit hours of practicum. The Masters and Doctorate levels are basically all practicum and self-directed work.

Notice the summary of practicum for each level in the chart below:

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LEVEL	CLASS CREDIT	PRACTICUM CREDIT	TOTAL
ASSOCIATE	32	32	64
GRADUATE	20	12	32
BACHELOR	22	12	34
MASTERS	36		
M. DIVINITY	38		
DOCTORATE	60		

For students not in full-time service, one can think of the two lower levels' practicum as *internship*. The teacher should align with the student and his pastor to have the student be involved in various facets of the ministry, as his pastor sees fit. One can think of the Bachelor level's practicum as refining the man's experience and filling in what is needed, so that he is ready for separated service. At the Bachelor level the class portion can be either actual class time or self-directed study, depending on what the church's leadership wants for its students. The upper levels are all self-directed work.

Throughout all levels, effort should be made to have the student work in the following general areas:

- *Scripture Ministry*, which includes scripture production and distribution, study, writing, and working in the church ministry.
- *To Every Creature* work, which includes evangelism, soul-winning, house-to-house visitation, etc. The student should follow the methods and programs of his church.
- *Preaching and Teaching*, which involves class teaching, nursing home, jail ministries, etc., as the church leadership sees fit.
- *Church-Related Work*, which includes areas of ministries or needs a church leader must be able to do.
- *By Love Serving One Another*, which entails all other aspects of the ministry, and as directed by the church leadership.

For the Bachelor level, the practicum requires not only a repeat of the above, but also adds the *Ministerial Work* expected of church leadership. Considering that the man who completes this level is expected to function in the ministry as a sent man, he should have good experience of performing the necessary things as the church sees fit, such as baptisms, marriages, funerals, the Lord's Supper, etc. (see Class 201 *Orientation* and Class 215 *Preparation and Application for Service* for details). The church should authorize (i.e., approve) the man for the work as needed.

For the three upper levels, the practicum is defined in the objectives.

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The subject of this class is a most important one. Personally, the author has seen many instances of God's people finding themselves in difficult situations because of a lack of abundance in things of necessity. Most of the time, this lack is due to a lack of planning and work -- not doing what God instructs. This lack touches all areas of a Christian's life.

The Need for Planning and Preparation

The Six P's – Prior Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance – is an important discipline that every believer should master. When one is prepared beforehand, he is ready for every good work. This rule applies in short-term and long-term objectives.

The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy: "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work" (2 Timothy 2:21). Timothy was instructed by the apostle to put forth the due diligence (purging himself from fleshly things) so that he would be a sanctified vessel, ready for the Master's use. Timothy was to be "prepared for every good work." The opposite understanding is correct also – that if Timothy (or whoever) did not do what was needed, he would not have been prepared. Undertaking a task or going to battle unprepared is not evidence of wisdom.

I do not know how high the percentage is, but I should say it is very high (maybe 99%), that whatever a man prepares himself for, he will very likely use it at some point in his life. For example, if a man memorizes John 3:16 in a foreign language, I expect God will allow him the opportunity to use at some point. It may not be today or tomorrow, but I believe eventually there will be the opportunity.

And if this is the case with random things, it is even more important that the disciple prepare himself for reproduction – a commanded activity. This syllabus is a study on the New Testament Doctrine of Reproduction.

Our Saviour Jesus Christ expects and will judge accordingly our faithfulness to carry out his commandments. The Lord expects his disciples to be fully committed to him in this life. We have to look forward, not back. "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). Paul understood he had to "press toward the mark" – Philippians 3:12-17. Hebrews 12 says, "Looking unto Jesus."

The "long-view" is not only practical, but necessary. Jesus had this (Hebrews 12:1-3), and so should we.

The Doctrine of Scriptural Reproduction and its connection to Love Commandment Doctrine

As with every class, we must understand the subject and its connection to the Great Commandment of Loving God and your brother

The love of God provokes us to want to be obedient, and such obedience requires reproduction. That God commanded such obedience in his word is plain to all. Additionally, because we love God and our brother, we want to see all the saints progress and develop to their fullest potential for the Lord. We want to *teach all nations* – basically reproducing ourselves – simply because we want to love our Savior. If you love me, keep my commandments (John 14:15).

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Master of Divinity

The Master of Divinity program is an optional program in the S. O. S. curricula, and it is available and recommended for students desiring a degree that will recognize their training for professional applications.

The M. Div. is not a required level for fulfillment of the Ph.D. program. For this reason, we do not show the M. Div. level on the Teaching Pyramid.

However, students interested in this program should still fulfill the Associates through Masters levels.

The Master of Divinity program builds on the learning of the lower levels of the S. O. S. and emphasizes certain areas that will benefit the student in professional work, such as the chaplaincy, spiritual advisement, and Christian counseling.

The beauty of this program can be seen in two ways: 1. In most cases, a minister already serving full-time can fulfill the requirements by simply putting forth extra effort to do and learn as he would normally do the work of the ministry. 2. Many of the requirements can overlap and be fulfilled simultaneously by putting forth a full effort in learning and serving.

For example, a preacher planning to attend a tent meeting in another community can go early, help in visitation and promotion, help in fund-raising at his church, help set up the tent and other things, lead in an area of work (i.e., setting up the chairs and songbooks), attend the meeting, take notes during the meeting preparing messages, preach or teach if given the opportunity, sing a special, lead music, or participate in the choir, deal with people at the invitation, help in the food distribution and clean-up, and serve in love wherever the opportunities present themselves. Accordingly, he accomplishes much at one time. At a week-long revival, he can likely spend 25-50 hours in service, fulfilling many requirements of the M. Div. program.

Class 521 Introduction to the Sacred Texts – 2 units

This class is a study and a review of the Hebrew *Masoretic Text (MT)*, its history, reliability, and use in various reliable translations of the Old Testament, and its use in the New Testament. The study includes proofs of the text's inspiration, the commandments in respect to the text's preservation, multiplication, and application by Israel.

Also included is a contrast and comparison to the *Septuagint (LXX)*, and an investigation and examination the *Septuagint's* pre-Christian (i.e., B. C.) availability of limited manuscripts. A study of the *Septuagint's* origin in the three departure-text Codices (*Vaticanus, Alexandrinus, and Sinaiticus*) and its connection to Origen and the *Hexalpa*.

In respect to the New Testament, this class involves a study and review of the extant New Testament Greek Texts, both the *Majority Byzantine Texts* and the *Minor Alexandrian Texts*, with an emphasis on their inspiration, preservation, multiplication, and the identification of departure texts. The student should be able to read and identify the differences between *Koine*, miniscule, and majuscule manuscripts.

Also included is the comparison of the extant manuscripts of the *Alexandrian Texts*, their books and the Apocryphal texts, among themselves and with the *MT* and the *Textus Receptus (TR)*.

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The class includes an analysis of *Erasmus'* printed Greek New Testament, following with the editions of *Beza* and *Stephanus*.

Class 522 Old Testament and New Testament Theology – 2 credits

This class requires the student to understand and elaborate on the differences between the doctrines and principles of both *Testaments*, including the subjects of the Law, the commandments, the priesthood, the grace and mercy of God, and the necessity of faith and good works.

The student should compare the teachings of Moses with the teaching of Jesus Christ, showing differences and similarities, with an analysis of the preeminence of Christ. The class includes teaching how the New Testament fulfills the Old Testament, and how the Old Testament has been replaced with the New Testament.

Class 523 Ecclesiastical-Related Studies and Activities – 2 units

In this class, the student studies for and performs church related activities that are *generally* required of ministers. The class requires authorization from a church organization and state entities as needed for certain performances of the activities.

The student should investigate options, fulfill necessary requirements, and prepare for each activity.

The student shows his ability to learn, adapt, and perform the due diligence to accomplish ecclesiastical-related activities, accounting for the environment, occasion, and the rules and laws to be followed.

The activities include, but are not limited to the following areas: Baptisms, Ordinations, Dedications, Weddings, Funerals, Worship Services, Sunday School, Nursing Home Ministry, Jail Ministry, Children's Ministry, Mission Conferences, etc.

Class 524 Financial Studies and Leadership – 3 units

The student is required to fulfill at least 100 hours of church or other non-profit Financial Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Oversight, and other Record-keeping work.

The student should learn the best methods to Track, Record, and Report Giving Amounts from individuals and organizations, and Giving and Support for Missions, General Expenses, and Special Activities; following Accepted Standards and Legal requirements.

The students should learn Basic Accounting and have knowledge of Financial Statements, Balance Sheets, Cash Flow, and Income and Disbursement recording methods.

Also required is the student's ability to lead Fund-Raising Activities with Goal-oriented Objectives and Encourage giving through Exhortative Communication, to meet Objectives in a Debt-Free manner.

The student should understand the ministerial work of a Treasurer, including Confidentiality, Accountability, Integrity, and Accuracy.

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The student should learn Budgeting following the Portioned-based and Debt-free principles of the scriptures. The student should be familiar with various Savings and Investment Strategies.

Class 525 Christian Worship and Music Studies and Practicum – 3 units

The student should have at least 100 hours of Music Leadership in the Ecclesiastical Context, leading Music Services in Church and other Religious Settings, Conducting the Music Ministry in a Variety of Styles using a Variety of Methods, such as Solo Arrangements, Duets, Quartets, Choruses, and Choirs. The Music Leadership includes the Selection of Appropriate Music for every group – Adults, Children, Seniors, etc.

The Practicum involves Organizing and Leading Choirs and their Rehearsals, Instrumental Accompaniment, and the Selection of Music for the Appropriate Services and Atmosphere.

Also included is Defining the Music to be used in Plays, Skits, and other Presentations. The student should have a good understanding of Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs; and select music according to Seasons and Events.

The student should have the ability to Read Music and Improvise, create Medleys, etc. The student should understand the differences of Rhythms, Godly and otherwise. He should have a basic knowledge of Christian Music History over the past two hundred years.

Class 526 Leadership Studies and Practicum – 3 units

The student should have at least 100 hours of Ministerial Leadership and Religious Work wherein he leads Religious Services, Revivals, Tent Meetings, and other Evangelistic Efforts. This Leadership also includes leading special services such as Weddings, Funerals, Memorial Services, etc.

The student should be fully capable and prepared to conduct a variety of Religious Services, overseeing all areas of work and directing support workers.

Class 527 Inter-church Service Studies and Practicum – 3 units

The student should have at least 100 hours of Ministry-related Inter-church Service, which includes helping other churches in their ministries through Evangelism, Soul-winning, Visitation, Leadership, Labor, Preaching, Teaching, Exhortation, and any other means of Scriptural Edification.

The purpose of this class is to have students show diligent Leadership in Inter-church Service.

Class 528 Teaching Studies – 3 units

In this class the student is to have prepared a minimum of 100 Biblical teaching or preaching Outlines, showing Good Doctrine and Sound Theological Correctness, to be used in a Practical setting. Each Outline should cover a minimum of 1 hour of delivery.

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The outlines should be nicely written, have a logical order, and show the Doctrine of Christ. The teaching should Exhort Obedience to the Commandments of Christ. Scripture References should be included for each point and sub-point. Each Outline should have an Introduction and an Introductory Passage of scripture, and a Clear and Logical Conclusion.

In this class the student shows his Homiletical and Hermeneutical Abilities in Studying the word of God, Arrange Thoughts, Apply Critical Thinking, Elaborate and Illustrate, use Effective Rhetoric, and Apply the Teaching (i.e., *Application*).

Class 529 Teaching Practicum – 3 units

In this class the student is to have a Preached or Taught a minimum of 100 Outlines. This is the equivalent of a year of preaching and teaching twice weekly, or two years of weekly preaching or teaching.

Students in full-time ministry normally preach and teach four times a week on average. This requirement, if fulfilled in normal church services, would be accomplished in six months. If the student also teaches seminary classes, this requirement would be fulfilled in ten weeks.

Class 528 can be combined with this class for expediency.

Class 530 Dealing with Difficult Situations – 3 units

In this class the student should learn how to deal with Difficult Situations. In the work of the ministry there are many cases that arise in which the man of God must conduct himself rightly and carefully and be in favor before God and man.

The student should be prepared for these times and have experience and knowledge in Diffusing Confrontations with people who are upset or angry, Negotiating Win-win Remedies between church members, and Foreseeing and Avoiding the Escalation of Conflicts.

The lessons learned from a Scriptural point of view will prepare the student correctly. He should learn what to do and what not to do. Sometimes all that can be done is to make the best of a bad situation.

Due to the depth of this class, the student should study and outline the passages below with the purpose of learning to deal with Difficult Situations. The Student should describe any practical experience gained in the ministry.

Learning from and Dealing with Difficult Situations

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| • Romans 5:3-5 | • Acts 18:24-26 |
| • Romans 8:28 | • Acts 15:8-11 |
| • Titus 2:3-5 | • Luke 8:1-3 |
| • Galatians 3:28 | • Genesis 2:7 |
| • 1 Corinthians 15:28 | • Genesis 1:2 |
| • 1 Timothy 2:12 | • 1 Peter 3:1 |
| • 1 Corinthians 11:1-34 | • 2 Timothy 3:15 |
| • Romans 1:1-32 | • Acts 16:13-15 |

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- John 20:1-31
- Matthew 22:30
- Genesis 1:28
- Romans 12:1

Important Steps

- Keep the Right Perspective (Romans 12:18).
- Know God has the Answer (Jeremiah 33:3; James 1)
- Ask for and Seek God's Wisdom (James 1; Luke 12:7)
- Have Wisdom to know when to Avoid Discussions (Luke 4:30; John 8)
- Engage Rightly (Proverbs 15:1).
- Always be Humble (James 4:6, 10; 1 Peter 5:5-6)
- Always be Compassionate and follow John 15:12

Making the Best of a Bad Situation

- Proverbs 17:17
- 1 Timothy 6:12
- Isaiah 41:10
- Proverbs 22:24-25
- Proverbs 18:24
- Proverbs 18:10
- Proverbs 12:26
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Psalm 23:1-6
- Deuteronomy 31:6
- 1 John 4:18
- 1 John 1:9
- 1 Peter 3:14
- James 4:1-17
- Colossians 3:5
- Philippians 3:18-19
- Philippians 2:2
- Ephesians 5:5
- Ephesians 4:32
- Ephesians 4:26
- Ephesians 4:2
- Galatians 5:19-21
- 1 Corinthians 16:13
- 1 Corinthians 6:1-20
- Romans 12:17-21
- Romans 12:2
- John 14:6
- John 3:16
- Luke 17:3-4
- Mark 12:28-30
- Mark 10:11-12
- Matthew 7:12
- Matthew 6:10
- Matthew 5:43-48
- Zephaniah 3:17
- Jeremiah 29:11
- Isaiah 35:4
- Isaiah 1:1-31
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-10
- Proverbs 27:17
- Proverbs 22:6
- Proverbs 16:3
- Proverbs 15:1
- Proverbs 13:20
- Proverbs 10:12
- Psalm 27:1
- Genesis 3:1-24
- Genesis 2:7

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Class 531 By Love Service – 3 units

In this class the student learns by serving others in a variety of ministries and other services. The student may have to research, study, and learn how to best fulfill the needs of others.

There are an unlimited number of circumstances wherein a minister may find himself required to supply the right response – whether in words or works or both. He should be knowledgeable as to *how* to find the right response and serve in love.

The manner by which the student will learn this *Service of Love* is by the experience and service in the areas he works now. As he, from his heart, desires to serve God faithfully, God will provide the opportunities both to serve and learn.

Accordingly, the evidence of fulfilling this requirement is seen in the following activities:

- Church Service and Events Participation – being involved in every aspect of church activity
- Attending other Services in other Churches whenever possible
- Taking Missionary Survey Trips whenever possible
- Doing Visitation Work whenever possible

Class 532 Ministry and Social Outreach – 3 units

In this class the student should have at least 100 hours participation and service in a variety of Outreach Efforts in the community. This is to fulfill the requirement in 2 Timothy 4:5: “But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.”

The man of God should know from experience how to “Watch in All Things.” By the Outreach Efforts herein performed, the student will learn to watch. He must also “Endure Afflictions,” work as an “Evangelist,” and make “Full Proof” of his ministry. He shall learn these things also when dealing in worldly situations as he ministers in the Outreach Efforts.

The types of Outreach Efforts include work in Hospitals, Schools, Jails, Rescue Missions, Children’s Homes, Nursing Homes, Community Centers, Recreation Centers, Clubs, Military Service Centers, etc.

Also included under Outreach Efforts are things like canvassing, door-to-door visitation, soul-winning, street preaching, evangelizing events, etc.

Class 533 Human Behavior Studies and Practicum – 3 units

In this class the student leverages and expands his knowledge and experience as he works in the area of *Human Behavioral Studies*. This work requires a minimum of 100 hours of Person-to-Person Interaction, Biblical Counseling and Godly Edification on a one-on-one basis. In cases of couples, it may be a one-on-two or a two-on-two basis.

The student needs a good understanding of how to apply the scriptures in a positive and edifying manner in all areas of Human Interaction. He must be considerate of every person, regardless of age, background, beliefs, culture, handicaps, etc. He must approach each person with sincere love and charity, humility, and

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compassion. He must learn to sincerely care for the person's soul and his well-being. He must follow Jesus' example of love (John 15:12) and Paul's example being all things to all people (1 Corinthians 9:20-23; 10:33).

The student must also excel in the area of Grief-Counseling and be able to comfort and encourage people who are dealing with sickness, loss, or the death of a loved one.

The things required in this class are learned through prayer, the work of the Holy Ghost in the individual, and the actual working with those in need, rather than reading thoughts on paper. The types of Ministry that provide opportunities for this type of growth are those involving ministry to the poor, homeless, and needy, Nursing Homes, Hospitals, Rescue Missions, VA ministries, etc.

The student should pray for development and growth in this area as he labors in love.

Class 534 Thesis, Evaluation, and Certification – 2 units

The student should submit a thesis (80-page minimum) on an approved subject and submitted for peer review. He must also be evaluated for his accomplishments of the requirements above. Any certifications earned during the term that are related to the program should be noted and credited equivalent to class time.